

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Lance Corporal Leusink for his sacrifice. I am greatly saddened by his passing but deeply proud and grateful for what he gave for America. His loss remains tragic but he died a true patriot.

VA RESEARCH

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I rise to highlight the wonderful work being conducted by VA's Medical and Prosthetic Research Program. VA research programs continue to lead in developing innovative and effective methods of treatment that have been its trademark since World War II. From its inception, the VA research program has made landmark contributions to the welfare of veterans and the entirety of the Nation.

Past VA research projects have resulted in the first successful liver transplant performed in the United States, development of the cardiac pacemaker, and pioneered the technologies that led to the CT and MRI scans. VA research also played a vital role in treating tuberculosis, rehabilitating blind veterans, and more recently, launched the largest ever clinical trial of psychotherapy to treat PTSD.

In 2004, VA research took on leadership of a \$60 million nation wide study—funded by the National Institute on Aging and other partners—to identify brain changes linked with Alzheimer's disease. VA research also established a major center of excellence, in partnership with Brown University and MIT, to develop state-of-the-art prosthetics for veteran amputees. For the last 60 years, VA research has been extremely competitive with its private sector counterparts.

I would like to recognize a few research projects that can potentially benefit veterans living in remote and rural areas across the country, including veterans living in my home State of Hawaii, where the geography creates challenges in accessing care. One study, Telemedicine and Anger Management Groups for PTSD Veterans in the Hawaiian Islands, builds on preliminary research supporting the use of technology for improving access to mental health care for veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD. The study focuses on the effectiveness of conducting anger management group therapy treatment through video-conferencing.

I also applaud the Pacific Islands Division of the National Center for PTSD in Honolulu. Their efforts have improved access to PTSD treatment in remote areas and contributed to the knowledge and understanding of cultural factors related to PTSD. I commend the Pacific Islands Division for its collaboration with the Department of Defense. I hope that VA and DOD continue to work together on future research projects aimed at providing better treatment for servicemembers and veterans alike.

In 2004, VA Research Currents, a publication that highlights the excellent work of the VA research community, reported on a study which found that men who walked less than a quarter of a mile each day were, on average, nearly twice as likely to develop dementia compared to those that walked more than 2 miles a day.

This research project was led by Robert D. Abbott, Ph.D., of the University of Virginia; senior author Helen Petrovitch, M.D.; and coauthor G. Webster Ross, M.D., of the Honolulu VA Medical Center. According to the researchers, the findings suggest that promotion of an active lifestyle could promote better health later on in life.

The last study I would like to discuss examines the correlation between drinking coffee and preventing Parkinson's disease. It has been said that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. In this case, VA researchers and their colleagues found that consuming at least 28 ounces of coffee can lower the risk of Parkinson's disease. Lead author G. Webster Ross, M.D., along with colleagues from the Kuakini Medical Center, used participant dietary nutritional data from the Honolulu Heart Program for their findings. The study helped scientists better understand the mechanisms of Parkinson's disease and found a strong correlation between coffee drinkers and low rates of Parkinson's disease. Dr. Ross did note, however, that it was too early to recommend drinking coffee to prevent Parkinson's disease.

To ensure that VA can continue these studies and tremendous successes, VA research must be given the funds to do the job. VA research funding must be at a level that takes into account not only inflation but new challenges as well. Most importantly, adequately funding VA research helps to ensure that VA remains an attractive option to our best and brightest in medicine. Chairman CRAIG and I, along with 60 of our colleagues, have recommended \$432 million in funding for VA research next year, notwithstanding that this number is just to maintain current services and avoid any personnel or project cuts.

Just last week, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs held a hearing on the VA research program, hearing firsthand the challenges researchers face in not only finding new methods of treatment but in funding, too. I came away from the hearing with a better understanding of the VA research program's needs, as well as the challenges we in Congress can help them overcome.

That is why I, along with 61 of my colleagues, have recommended an addition to the VA research budget and not a decrease. Less funding for VA research at this point in time will have negative consequences down the road, when VA inherits the servicemen and women currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Let us not fail in our responsibilities of providing adequate funding so VA's Medical and Prosthetic

Research Program can continue to innovate and save lives.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

ANNIVERSARY PROCLAMATION FOR SISTERS OF MERCY IN ST. LOUIS

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, June 27, 2006 marks the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters of Mercy in St. Louis, MO. Founded in Dublin, Ireland, in 1831 by Mother Catherine McAuley, the Sisters have dedicated themselves to serving the sick, poor, and uneducated, particularly women and children.

In 1856, at the request of St. Louis Archbishop Peter J. Kenrick, six Sisters of Mercy journeyed by train and boat from New York to St. Louis, arriving on June 27, 1856, to open St. Francis Xavier Parish School. During their first year in St. Louis, in addition to opening this new school, the Sisters visited the sick, poor, and jailed; started a Sunday school program for African-American women and girls; began an industrial school for children with one parent; and opened an orphanage. Despite many challenges including lack of money, food and clothing, the Sisters persevered with determination and faith. They expanded their ministry during the Civil War, visiting war prisoners at the hospital and jail.

Growing enrollment at St. Francis Xavier School necessitated the opening of a new school in 1871. The Sisters of Mercy have continued the focus on education in St. Louis. Over the past 150 years since their arrival in St. Louis, more than 177 Sisters of Mercy have served in more than 20 parish elementary schools and 5 high schools in Missouri. These schools include Christ the King School in University City, Mercy High School in University City, St. Joan of Arc School in South St. Louis, Annunciation School in Webster Groves, and Mercy Junior College in Webster Groves.

Recognizing the ever-growing health care needs of the community, in 1871 the Sisters converted the old St. Francis Xavier School to an infirmary. The hospital struggled financially because many patients were unable to pay, but the Sisters never turned patients away due to lack of funds. Instead, Sisters even sacrificed their mattresses and bedding to accommodate patients. To meet the increased need for their health care services, the Sisters moved the hospital to two other St. Louis sites before relocating to its current location on South New Ballas Road in 1963.

While better known for their work in education and health care, the Sisters have served the people of the St. Louis metropolitan area in numerous other ministries including working with immigrants, providing spiritual direction, hosting groups at their conference and retreat center, and serving the poor.

Since their 1856 arrival, the Sisters of Mercy have continuously served the residents of St. Louis and its surrounding areas. They overcame many obstacles to carry on their services and today we recognize their dedication with our deepest gratitude and respect. It truly has been a Journey of Service.

Cities/municipalities in St. Louis where Sisters of Mercy have served/lived and currently serve/live: Creve Coeur, Frontenac University City, Chesterfield, City of St. Louis, Webster Groves, and Washington, MO.●

THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF STUPP BROS. INC.

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in honor of the 150th anniversary of Stupp Bros., Inc., from the great State of Missouri. Five generations of the Stupp family in Missouri have devoted themselves to the success and innovation of this homegrown St. Louis business. On this milestone in the history of Stupp Bros., Inc., I commend the company leaders and employees for their contributions to the worldwide business community.

In 1856, the city of St. Louis was a tremendous boomtown and the bustling inland port at the seat of the Mississippi River for pioneers heading westward. Thousands of immigrants flocked to the city from Italy, Ireland, and Germany in search of a better life for their families. One German immigrant named Johann Stupp settled in St. Louis. There he founded J. Stupp and Bro., Blacksmiths, a shop focused primarily on repairing tools and machinery parts.

Like many Missourians at the time, Stupp became deeply involved in the Union effort as the Civil War unfolded. During the conflict, Stupp assisted the work of James Eads in crafting a fleet of ironclad gunboats for use in battle by the Union Army. Shortly following the war, the blacksmith shop faced hard times. Yet with the aid of his sons George, Peter, and Julius, Stupp rebuilt the business as Stupp Bros. South St. Louis Iron Works, receiving a charter of incorporation from the State of Missouri for building and repairing iron and steel structural work.

After Johann Stupp passed away in 1915, the Stupp brothers continued to manage the company with great success. Recognizing the fast changing and ever-modernizing world in which they lived, the Stupp brothers reorganized the company's services to keep up with the needs of a rapidly growing United States. Like their father during the Civil War, the Stupp brothers supported World War I by fabricating parts for Liberty ships. In World War II, the Stupp Bros. received the Army Navy E-Award for its construction of 176 LCTs, which landed allied troops on beaches throughout the world in the defense of freedom.

During much of the 20th century and still today, the Stupp Bros. family of companies has provided bridge fabrica-

tion, structural steel for commercial buildings, custom-made piping for oil and gas, steel line pipe coatings, and community banking services. Some of their accomplishments have been designing carrying structures for the Department of Defense to protect missiles from attack, building two straddle-carrier transporters to assist the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, for the "moon shot," and completing a 796 mile natural gas pipeline spanning from northwest Texas to Illinois.

Despite its impressive contributions to the country during both war and peace time, the mark of Stupp Bros. is nowhere greater than in the city of St. Louis. As the Kiel Center took shape in 1933, Stupp Bros. provided the steel for its construction. Later in 1978, the Stupp Bros. fabricated over 7,000 tons of steel for the First National Bank highrise building in the downtown area. Perhaps of most interest to me, given my particular fondness for the St. Louis Cardinals, is that Stupp Bros. fashioned the floodlighting and electronic scoreboard for Sportsman's Park, the original Busch Stadium.

Recognizing its responsibility to the community, Stupp Bridge has also been a civic contributor to the greater community. In 1951, the company launched a charitable trust to be known as Stupp Bros. Bridge and Iron Co. Foundation Trust. Over the last 50 years, the foundation has generously provided millions of dollars in contributions to local and national charities. One of its most notable actions is the establishment of a scholarship program which supports the college education for the son or daughter of a Stupp employee.

The story of Stupp Bros., Inc. is one of American determination, innovation, and service. For 150 years, the company has been a staple among the St. Louis business and industry community. Today, under the leadership of Robert P. Stupp, John P. Stupp, Jr., and R. Philip Stupp, Jr., Stupp Bros. continues to leave its mark upon the landscape of our State. On behalf of all Missourians, I extend my best wishes and warmest regards to the Stupp Bros., Inc., family of companies, and especially to their dedicated employees and company leaders for their 150 years in the great State of Missouri.●

IN HONOR OF WENDY BUEHLER

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Wendy Buehler, president of Life Skills, on the anniversary of her 25th year of leadership and service to individuals with developmental disabilities.

Life Skills, a nonprofit charitable group, has served Missourians with disabilities since 1964. Today they continue to connect individuals with disabilities to the greater community of St. Louis. Over 1,400 children and adults have been assisted by Life Skills, enabling them to live in their own homes, seek and hold jobs, and

make lasting ties to the city of St. Louis.

For over three decades, Wendy Buehler has provided leadership and service to Life Skills. Starting out as a direct support staff person, she has steadily provided compassion and leadership, leading to her current role as president of the organization. Wendy Buehler has remained committed to providing supported employment services so people with developmental disabilities have the skills necessary to secure and retain meaningful and competitive employment.

Wendy Buehler's commitment to helping individuals with disabilities live quality and independent lives provides a lasting service for all of Missouri. Having a disability can pose many challenges for individuals to live independently as part of the greater community. Wendy Buehler has worked to ensure Missourians with disabilities have the resources they need to live their lives as healthy and as independently as possible.

Today I recognize Wendy Buehler for her dedication and commitment to the disability community of the State of Missouri.●

TRIBUTE TO HUGH PATTERSON

● Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I wish to acknowledge the life and the courage of Hugh Patterson, who died last week at the age of 91. Mr. Patterson was the publisher of the Arkansas Gazette in 1957 when the Arkansas National Guard was called up to prevent nine young Blacks from enrolling at Central High School in Little Rock. This hugely divisive issue not only had to be reported on in the Gazette, it had to be evaluated on the editorial page. Mr. Patterson's initial reaction was the right one; support desegregation. He later recalled that he said, "Well, of course, it's got to be recognized that the Supreme Court decision was the only decision that could have been made. We have to recognize that this is a transitional time in terms of public policy and it will, perhaps, take some time for that to be realized, but there's just no option to this. It's a fundamental matter." Mr. Patterson was the paper's first publisher, responsible for policy as well as business, but he was not the only one making major editorial decisions. He had to help convince the owner, his father-in-law, J.N. Heiskell, and he did.

The reaction to the newspaper's stand for desegregation was severe. There were boycotts against advertisers and mobs out to prevent delivery trucks from delivering papers. Circulation fell. The financial losses were significant, and harmful on a larger scale because Mr. Patterson's philosophy was that profits should be put back into the paper, which he saw as a public service to the State. The Gazette won two Pulitzer Prizes for its coverage in 1957 and they were well deserved. As today's Democrat-Gazette